IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 4, please delete the paragraph beginning with "Figure 4 ..." and replace with the following new paragraph. Changes to the original are highlighted.

Figure 4 illustrates the information typically stored in an a platform ID prom[[.]];

On page 4, please insert a blank line between the paragraph beginning with "Figure 4 ..." and the subsequent paragraph beginning with "Figure 5 ...". Please delete the paragraph beginning with "Figure 5 ..." and replace with the following new paragraph. Changes to the original are highlighted:

Figure 5 shows the data structure of a platform FRU ID prom in an embodiment of the present invention;

Please delete the paragraph on page 7 beginning with "Figure 3 ..." and replace with the following new paragraph. Changes to the original are highlighted.

Figure 3 illustrates part of the data stored in a MIB 40. In this case the MIB stores, among other data, a correlation between the numerical code of the "SysObjectID" object identifier and a description of the manufacturer, type and model of the equipment to which the Object Identifier relates. The hierarchical structure used in MIBs is determined by the Internet Engineering Task Force and is accessible on www.ietf.org is not directly relevant to the present invention, since the present invention requires the MIB only to provide a correlation between the sysObjectID and entPhysicalVendorType object identifiers and the descriptions of the equipment to which those object identifiers relate. For an explanation of the naming hierarchy used in a MIB, the reader is referred to Section 4 of RFC2578 which can be found at http//www [world.wide.web].faqs.org/rfcs/rfc2578.html) or on the ietf site referred to above. Section 3.5 of RFC2578 further provides a definition of an Object Identifier.

Please delete the paragraph on page 16 beginning with "When the agent has responded ..." and replace with the following new paragraph. Changes to the original are highlighted.

When the agent has responded to the request by returning the SysObjectID or entPhysicalVendorType number sequence to the network management system, the network management system retrieves from its MIB 40 the description of the equipment corresponding to that numerical sequence and, for example, displays to the user the identity information. The network management system may, of course, make other use of the retrieved identity data.

Please delete the paragraph on page 16 beginning with "In a first example of the invention ..." and replace with the following new paragraph. Changes to the original are highlighted.

In a first example of the invention, the network is as illustrated in Figure 2 with the difference that the data stored in the platform ID PROM 11 is as shown in Figure 4, and the data stored in the FRU ID PROM 12 is as shown in Figure 5. The network management system will include a MIB 40 correlating the products of a manufacturer with their respective object identifier sequences, as seen in Figure 8.